G.R.S. IX-5]

Previous references.

1923

(Geol)

File No. 21-23

Serial Nos. 1-3.

Later references.

preserve

(38)

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos.

Part B for

SUBJECT

Transfer of work Relating to Mining Leases and Prospecting Licenses from the Geological Department.

Printed on the Multigraph.

(For Disposal at a Meeting)

No. C.

184 1922

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Council Matter.

SUBJECT.

(Clause xxvii of the schedule.)

Transfer of the work relating to mining leases and prospecting licenses from the Geological Department.

CIRCULATED TO THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

By Order,

24th October 1922

Chief Secretary to Government.

Extraordinary Member of Council.

3422-44(
25-10-22 First Member of Council.

2486
27-10-22 Second Member of Council.

Third Member of Council.

General and Revenue Secretariat. Geol File No. 21 of 1922-4

Serial No.

Extract from Geol File no 47-20 relating to Report on the working of the Dept of Mines & Explosives for 19-2

× × × ×

How will this revenue read with that of Geological Dept both dealing with prospecting licens and leases.

2 Is there not overlapping in the work and should not all mining leases and prospecting be transferred to Mining Dept

(Initd) A.R.B. 5-12

3 Asstt Secretary

Please bring up both the reports.

(Initd) C.S.A. 7/12 (Initd) D.E.S.

4 Submitted with revised draft reports as directed.

Asst. 10/13-12-20 (Initd) N.V.

5 For approval

(1st Member) (Initd) D.E.S. 14-12-20

6 This question maybe worked up separately. I want also to know the present staff of Govt of India Geological Dept & work they are doing.

(Initd) A.R.B. 15-12

~~Case to Chief Asst to inform on 31~~

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

G. R. S. III-2,

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Geol File No. 21 of 1923-4

Serial No.

On page 103 of Thackers Indian Directory 1930 the following information is available.

Geological Survey of India & Geological Museum

Director

H. H. Hayden, C S I. C I E etc.

Superintendents

E. W. Vredenburg, B.L., B.Sc. etc.

L. Leigh Fermor, O.B.E., A.R.S.M., etc

and

E. H. Pascoe, M.A., D.Sc., etc.

Assistant Superintendents

Guy E. Pilgrim, D.Sc. F.G.S.

G. H. Tipper, M.A. F.G.S. etc.

H. Walker, A.R.C.S. etc

K. A. K. Hallowes M.A., A.R.S.M. etc

G. de P. Cotter, B.A., F.G.S.

J. Coggin Brown O.B.E., M.Sc., etc

W. C. Jones, A.R.S.M. etc

A. M. Heron B.Sc., F.G.S. etc

M. Stuart D.S., B.Sc., etc

C. S. Fox, B.Sc., M.I.M.E., etc

R. W. Palmer M.Sc.

S. Sethu Rama Rau B.A.,

and

M. Vinayak Rao B.A.

Chemist

W. A. K. Christie B.Sc., Ph.D. etc.

Assistant Curator

B. B. Gupta

Artist, K. F. Watkinson

Head clerk A. K. Banerji, B.A.

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

AHS.
21-12-30.

G. R. S. III-2,

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Geo File No. 21 of 1922-4

Serial No.

DIARY NO: 7094

Section:

File No:

Serial No:

PRINTED

1320

2587

8/ As regards the work these are doing was the Resident at Dharwar to be addressed.
For orders
BG 21/12/20

9 Dr Smeeth or Mr. Jayaram will, if approved, be asked to obtain the necessary information from the Director of the Geological Survey of India.

Chief Secy) 22/12/20.

10 Is there no annual report issued by the Govt of India Geol Dept - Ask Mr Sft.

11 Under Secy, L. Audit with compliments) 28/12/20

12 Subd & returned in person on 10/1/21.
Full note of the proceedings after the meeting held & other 2 reports are received back in M.D.Br.
13 Effd as desired & returned herewith
Proceedings Bm 11/1/21.
11/1/21

No. 1163 dated 12th Jan 1921 to the Director of Geology in Mysore requesting for certain reports issued by the Govt of India.

Subd. 14
21/1/21 The last annual reports of Mines & of Geology are awaited from M.D. Branch
Bm

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. Geol File No. 21 of 1923-4

Serial No.

15 Submitted with reference to the First Member's remarks in Geological File No.47 of 1919-20 serials 1 to 3. The constitution and activities of the Department of Geological Survey and of Mines in British India will be clear from the following - - - extracts from the Hand Book of Commercial Information in India by C.W.E.Cotton.

16 "The activities of the Geological Dept of the department are directed mainly to the completion of a geological map of India, and to the collection and dissemination of information regarding the mineral resources of the country. It also gives expert advice with regard to the administration of the rules for the grant of prospecting licenses and mining leases; it is responsible for the upkeep and administration of the geological section of the Indian Museum; it issues annual statistics of the output of Indian minerals, and it furnishes professors and lecturers in geology for various educational institutions in India.

17 The sanctioned cadre of the Department is at present: 1 Director, 3 Superintendents, 15 Assistant Superintendents, and 1 Chemist. Its headquarters are in Calcutta, but its activities extend to the whole Indian Empire. The survey parties usually leave for the field in October, returning to headquarters for recess in May. Owing to the large number of applications for advice and assistance both from Government officials and from the general public, a certain proportion of the staff is retained in Calcutta throughout the year; this includes the Curator of the Museum and Laboratory and the Palaeontologist.

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Genl File No. 21 of 1923-4

Serial No.

Geological specimens are determined free of charge many hundreds of such determinations, involving numerous qualitatives chemical analyses, are made every year. Fire assays and quantitative work are not, as a rule, undertaken for the public, applicants being usually referred either to the Government Test House or to one or other of the numerous professional analysts in India. Information with regard to the mineral resources of the country is given freely, and the greater part of the time of the clerical staff at headquarters is occupied with replies to enquiries of this nature.

18 The Geological Survey of India issues various publications, including--

(1) Records which are published at the rate of approximately one volume of four parts per annum. The records contain the Annual Report of the Department, the annual Review of Mineral production, and papers dealing with both scientific and economic matters. Every fifth year, one volume of the Records is devoted to a review of the mineral production of India during the preceding quinquennial period;

(2) Miscellaneous publications, such as Bibliographies, Guides, &c., issued from time to time.

19 The geological collections most of which are housed in the geological section of the Indian Museum comprise some 28,000 specimens of rocks, 9,000 of minerals and 35,000 of fossils, of which over 14,000 are types. There are four geological gallaries in the Museum--

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

Serial No.

(a) the Mineral Gallery

(b) the Meteorite Gallery

(c) the Siwalik Gallery

(d) the Palaeontological Gallery.

20 The library of the Geological Survey of India is probably the finest scientific library in the East; it contains 30,000 volumes. 30

The Department of Mines.

21 The Department of Mines in India came into existence in 1902. It is mainly responsible for the administration of two Acts, Viz., the Indian Mines Act (Act VIII of 1901) and the Land Acquisition Mines Act (Act XVIII of 1885). Under the first Act it is concerned with the safety of mining - - - employees, both in coal mines and in mines other than coal, throughout British India and Burma. Rules have been made under the Act to provide for greater and for effective management and apart from the rules the Inspectors have powers to call upon mine owners to remedy dangers and to forbid the employment of women and children in any mine in which they consider it unsafe for them to work. The majority of the fatal accidents are inquired into and reported upon. Under the Second Act, the work of which is confined to Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, the officers of the Department act as Mining Advisers to the Local Government, with reference to the support - - - which should be left under railways and with reference to what protective works should be carried out if such support is not given. For this purpose a considerable number of surveyors are employed.

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

Serial No.

Even in provinces where the Act does not apply and where the coal under railways is reserved by Government as lanlords, in the lease, the services of the Department are from time to time enlisted.

22 The cadre consists of one Chief Inspector, two Inspectors and two junior Inspectors, and as more than three quarters of the work refers to the coalfields of Bengal and of Bihar and Orissa the headquarters of the Department have been, since 1909, at Dhanbad, in the district of Manbhum, in Bihar and Orissa, on the edge of the Jherria coalfields. For purposes of administration, British India and Burma are divided into two circles with one of the - - - Inspectors in charge of each. One Inspector in charge of No.I Circle which includes the Jherria coalfield is stationed at Dhanbad and the other - - stationed at Sitarampur, in Bengal, is in charge of No.2 Circle which includes the Raniganj coalfield. The remaining mines in Bihar and Orissa, all the mines in Assam, the Punjab and Belushistan are in No.1 Circle, while those in Bombay, the Central Provinces, Madras and Burma are in No.2 Circle. Each Inspector has one junior Inspector to assist him. Since the production of tungsten became of national importance the wolfram mines in the Tavoy district have been under a Superintendent of the Geological Survey, who has been given the powers of an Inspector of Mines, subordinate to the Chief Inspector.

23 The collection annually of figures of output, labour &c., from all the mines, and the issue of an annual report is undertaken by the department.

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. Geol File No. 21 of 1922-4

Serial No.

24

The department is closely associated with mining education. The Chief Inspector is a member of the governing body of Sibpur College and President of a Board known as the Mining Education Advisory Board under which mining instruction is given in the coalfields of Bengal and of Bihar and Orissa. The two Inspectors are members of this Board and each is the Chairman of Sub-Committees in the coalfields."

25 The latest copy of each of the general report of Geological Survey of India, Quinquennial Review of mineral production, annual review of the Mineral production ~~Act~~, and the Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines obtained from the office of the Director of Geology are submitted for reference.

It will be clear from the above extracts of the reports that the Geological Department of India deals with the survey and allied scientific work while the Mines Department deals with the administration of the Indian Mines Act though the reports of both the departments overlap to a certain extent in giving ~~the~~ information as to the number of leases in force and the total production. The Geological Report is the one that gives greater details while the Mines report gives the information merely to facilitate the easier understanding of the report proper relating to the administration of the mines Act. It will be noticed also that neither of the Departments deals with the grant of mining, prospecting or exploring ~~leases which~~ licenses. These are disposed of by the Revenue authorities or Government in the Revenue Department.

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

Serial No.

27) In Mysore according to the G.O. of the 18th September 1919 the Geological Department deals with the grant of mining, prospecting and exploring licenses.

The Geological Survey work and supervision of prospecting work and cognate scientific activities. The Department of Mines is to devote its attention solely to the administration of the Mysore Mines Regulation No.IV of 1906. The Department of Mines therefore has nothing to do with the grant of -- - licenses &c. The reference in ~~their~~ its report to the number of leases in existence is necessary merely to give an idea of the extent of mining activity in the State for the inspection of which the Department is responsible.

28) A previous audit of the new Mines office at Kolar Gold Fields will facilitate the formulation of detailed proposals if a revised definition of duties is considered necessary.

~~The Secretary~~
Asst Secy
Geol & M&D Branch
with Compliments

Hm
28/1/21

29) Submitted for orders.

Chief Secy.)
1st Member.)

dcs
29/1/21.

41
2/2

30) Both the leases [illegible] (1st Member)
C2 mines rights [illegible]
Cancelled when the new
[illegible] mines specified leases [illegible]

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

771·2
8966

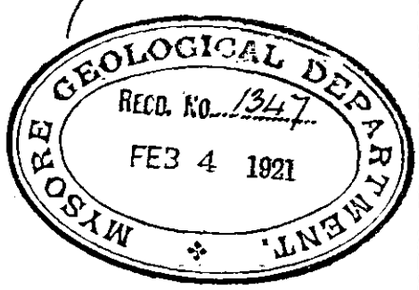
G. R. S. III-2

General and Revenue Secretariat. Geol File No. 21 of 1923-4

Serial No.

UO 49 of 1920-21

Dy 3-2-1921.



31) Forwarded, with compliments, to the Director of Geology for favour of opinion

By Order,

B.C. Subbarayappa,

3/2/21. For Chief Secretary to Govt:

BJ
4.2.21

2 From.

The Director Department of Geology

Letter no 143 & Dy 20-2-1921

Forwards a note containing his views in the matter of the overlapping work and transfer of Prospecting Licences and Mining Leases to the Mining Department.

Assistant Secy's note ant: U.D.

32) Please put up Dr Smeeth's Note re Scheme of work for the Departments of Mines and Geology referred to at Page 5.

Gnd.

BCS

1/3/21

33) Submitted with apparent copy of G.O. no G 7041-7100 Govt 69-18-11 Dy 18-9-1919 containing the note. As the file is not available the spare copy is sent.

7

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

BJ
2/3/21 BJ

(122.

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Geo: File No. 24 of 1922-4

Serial No.	
	34 For orders. dcg 4/3/24.
	Chief Secy) 35 Has not the C.I.y. mines been consulted as ordered by Member in yr Feb. Yrs. Please do so now. Draft letter accordy — 7/3/24
	36 Draft please dcg 8/3/24.
	37 Draft submd. 8/3 38 Issue dcg 9/3/24
2	Issued q. 17325 dated 9th March 1924

Renewing

"	"	24-4-21
"	"	4-7-21
"	"	22-8-21
"	"	26-9-21
"	"	28-11-21
"	"	5-1-22
"	"	26-1-22
"	"	31-3-22
"	"	12-5-22
"	"	11-7-22
"	"	16-8-22

3 From the Chief Inspector of Mines in Ceylon

4644 & 6-9-22

Submits a note on the subject of transfer of mines work relating to mining leases & prospecting licences to Mines dept.

To Submitted for orders

AAG 13-9-22

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

Serial No.

40 At the time of reviewing the reports the Geological and Mines Departments for the year 1919-2 the Dewan (then as First Member of Council) raised the following questions:-

(1) How will the review on the Mines report read with that of the Geological Department both dealing with information relating to Prospecting Licenses and Mining Leases?

(2) Is there no over-lapping in the work and should not all Mining Leases and Prospecting work be transferred to the Mines Department?

41 Both the Director of Geology and Chief Inspect of Mines who were consulted have expressed their views in the matter. The practice prevailing in British India regarding the functions of the Geologi al and Mines Departments are given in detail on page 4 to 9 of the notes.

42 As regards the statistical information regarding licenses and leases incorporated both in the Geological and Mines reports this would appear to be necessary in as much as the reports are circulated in different areas and to different people, as observed by the Chief Inspector of Mines. It would appear necessary to help to understand the Mines report to give some statistical information as regards the number of licenses and leases for different minerals issued during any particular year. The same practi is also followed in the reports drawn up by the Mine Department of the British India.

43 As regards the functions of the Geological and Mines Departments in the matter of the grant of -

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

Serial No.

Prospecting Licenses and Mining Leases it is observe that the practice at present prevailing here is for the Mining Department to confine itself strictly to inspection work under the Mines Regulation and enfor ing the provisions of that Regulation. This work is on all fours with the practice in British India. There the Mines Department, which is not heavily staffed as yet, confines its attention mostly to inspection work on the coal fields and a few deep mining operations in parts of Burma. The Departmen has nothing to do with the grant of Prospecting Licenses or Mining Leases, nor does it undertake the inspection of work carried on under cover of such licenses and leases to any large extent. The gran of such leases and licenses is in British India the function of the Revenue Department, the Geological Department being expected to help the revenue autho- rities and other private persons as are in need of expert advice. In Mysore, however, the grant of these licenses is attended by the Geological Depart- ment. If this work or any portion thereof is trans- ferred to the Mining Department there will, except perhaps the work of the Geological survey, be not much work left for the Geological Department to undertake even with the retrenched staff and curtailment of activities ar recently sanctioned. It seems therefore desirable t continue the present distribution of work between th Geological and Mines Departments. There is however no reason why the Mines Department should not, in addition to inspection work under the Mining Regula- tion which is at present confined only to the Gold

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

Serial No.

Fields area, undertake the inspection work of Mining areas in other parts of the State. It may, however be remarked that till these ~~mining~~ enterprises are developed and mining is carried on at deeper levels the work of inspection by the Mines Department cannot be very onerous.

44 In these circumstances it is a point for orders whether any further revision in the functions of the two Departments is called for.

M R
25.9.n

(General Secretary)

45 Mr Bourne & Dyson's note (p.a.d) that an officer may be transferred from the Geological & the Mines Department & with Hd Quarters at Bangalore and that this officer may be given inspection work which will be supervised by the Chief Inspector of Mines Mr Jagannatham Dr of Geology. As can be seen from his note he probably not object to

G R S. DI-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Geol File No. of 19

Serial No.

The proposal of Mr Bocquet so long as explor compaid prospecting licences and mining leases continue to be granted by the department of Geology

Asst Member

46

13.10.22

MVR 13/10

3181-200
14.10.22

It does not appear to me that any change in the existing arrangement is called for. There is no difficulty in the officers of the mining dept. working as Prov. officers. I doubt much if with lower it possible to take off an officer of the Geol dept for work under the Ch. Inspector as proposed

DEWAN'S OFFICE.
Recd. on OCT 16 1922
Reg. No. 2275

The Dewan

Dec
16.10.22

There has been in the last considerable Canvassing for applications coming like those in the case of Gunday mining prospecting licences by persons. I do not think any reply to

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

G R S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. Genl File No. of 19

Serial No.

The Rev Dept & B Govt
the system & return proposed
The retrenchment Committee
the work of the G. Dept
to Secretariat work & Survey
under these circumstances
the question arises whether the
Cum of the Govt & Govt
of Rev Dept which may
retrench the work done
of the G Dept

This may be considered
in C

(50)

after the experience in the early part of 1919. steps were taken to guard against recurrence of orders & work by Rev & Genl. Depts. Genl. 23.10.22

48)

17.10

for personal before transfer of Records & Communication

Govt Member

49)

17-10-22

3335-35X
20.10.22

Secn.

Genl (51)
23.10.22 To the Chief Secretary with Compliments

(52) 28/10/22

NOTE—Contn. sheet

Subject.

Transfer of the work relating to mining leases and prospecting licenses from the Geological Department.

....

OPINION OF THE COUNCIL.

The existing arrangements may continue

17/11/22

Subject to consent

17/11/22

A S B 20/11/22

Papers May be forwarded

20/11

REV. SECRETARIAT
20 NOV 1922
& COMMERCE.
BRANCH.

20.11.22

8966/19

M. G. D. 12.

Camp, Javagal.

No. 1438 one note & some enclosures per list

Dated, Bangalore, 28/2/1921

Dl/ ~~8768~~

From

B. JAYA RAM, Esquire, F.G.S.,
Director, Mysore Geological Department.

To

The Chief Secretary
to the Government of His Highness
the Maharaja of Mysore, Bangalore.

Sir,

The files relating to the administration reports of the Department of Geology and Department of Mines and Explosives are herewith returned, with thanks.

The questions raised by the First Member in charge of the portfolios on the overlapping of work and transfer of Prospecting licenses and Mining leases and forwarding them for favour of my opinion. have received my careful consideration and my views in the matter are contained in a note appended herewith.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

B. Jaya Ram

Director,

Mysore Geological Department.

(20

Note relating to overlapping of work and transfer of prospecting licenses and leases.

From the files sent on for my perusal and favour of opinion on certain observations by the First Member in Council, it would appear that the Member in charge contemplates to bring about a change in the agency which has been hitherto handling the collection and publication of mineral statistics and dealing with the prospecting and mining licenses and leases.

The notes in the file go to show that the attention of the Member in charge of the portfolios was drawn to certain overlapping of work while reviewing the administration reports of the Departments of Mines and Explosives and Geology; whereupon he has been pleased to call for information on the following points ;-

I. How will this review read with that of the Geological Department both dealing with prospecting licenses and leases,

2. Is there not overlapping in the work and should not all Mining leases and prospecting be transferred to Mining Department.

3. This question may be worked up separately. I want also to know the present staff of Government of India, Geological Department and work they are doing.

The information called for on the above points have been carefully called and noted in paras I5 to 25 and summarized in para 26, all contained in the Geological Secretariat file.

To supplement these notes would mean traversing over much of the same ground but nevertheless since even at this stage it seems highly necessary and desirable to repeat and reiterate the importance and value of Geological Survey work, I cannot do better than quote verbatim the following passages, which are presumably largely responsible to the facile pen of no less than an experienced authority on the subject as Sir Thomas Holland, whose admirably appreciative record of the work done by the Geological Survey of India is found in the Indian Industrial Commission Report for I9I6-I9I8.

21)

On page 88 of the Report is found

" The Geological Survey is organized and equipped to deal with all problems connected with the development of our Mineral resource namely, the various branches of pure Geology required to complete the general Geological map of India, Mineral statistics, informatio regarding mineral occurrances, and the condition under which prospecting licenses and mining leases are granted. The Department touches on ~~the~~ Public Education by making its reference Museum acce -sible to the public and by lending Officers for short periods as College Professors. Three advantages have followed from this compac structure:-

I. Everybody in India, whether an official or a private person knows exactly whether a definite problem does, or does not, come within the province of the Geological Survey,

2. The activities of its Officers can never overlap those of another department without being noticeable, while no other official either of the Government of India or under a local Government, can pose as an authority on mineral questions without obviously trespas -sing on the functions of a recognized and established department;

3. To the rest of the Scientific World a Member of the Geological Survey always retains his caste as a Geologist, and the Director of the Department occupies ex-officio an honoured position.

These circumstances add to the prestige of the department and tend to foster an esprit de corps, which lends an additional attract to the service. The department has maintained without interruption, since its foundation, a set of serial publications which, being the only publication of their kind in India, enable it to enjoy the bene -fit of a monopoly in making exchanges with other institutions abroad. As a result it possesses one of the most satisfactory reference libraries of its kind. This feature is one of very great import -ance, for it is difficult to overestimate the value to the department of the certainty with which an officer can rely on his library in following up a line of research in any branch of pure or applied Geology."

In another part of the Report while discussing the criticisms of existing Mining rules, the following remarks are found on pages 171-173:-

" A considérable amount of evidence was forthcoming regarding the suitability of the rules under which Mining concessions are at present granted by Government. Our conclusions are that the rules have, except in a few comparitively minor respects, stood the test of working admirably and that the criticisms received were mostly shown, on discussion with witnesses, to be due to misunderstanding of the effect of the existing rules, or to failure to realise the difficulties which would arise from adoption of the alternatives suggested.

There are however, certain matters connected with the working of the rules on which we desire to put forward our suggestions. We recorded a considerable amount of evidence regarding the injury to the mineral possibilities of the country caused by wasteful methods of working; and it was suggested that small mine owners would be greatly benefited by the advice of Government Mining Engineers. Some witnesses even considered that these Officers should have power to compel mine owners to follow their advice. The main objection to this course is the danger of loss to a manager forced to follow official advice regarding the development of his mine. In some countries, Royalty owners are interested in seeing that their properties are economically worked. In India, unfortunately, private royalty owners do nothing of the kind; indeed in some cases they insert conditions in their leases which directly tend to cause wasteful working. Whether or not any general steps should be taken at this stage to ensure the economical working of privately owned minerals, it certainly behoves the Government to secure this end in the case of its own properties. We have also considered the proposal that Government should insist on concession holders employing qualified mining engineers; but, while we recognise that there is much to be said for such a course, we feel that hardship would be caused to poor concessionaires, unless provision was made for exempting small or easily worked deposits.

We would, therefore, only recommend at present that a suitable staff be entertained in connection with the Geological Survey Depart-ment to inspect Government concessions. The experience gained in a few years by such a staff would show how far it would be possible to insist on all Government concessions being worked by qualified men, and the extent to which small concessionaires may be benefited by the advice of the Government Mining Engineers.

The existance of such an inspecting staff would admit of more elasticity in the terms of prospecting licenses, alike in respect of area, length of currency and rental. If Government were in a position to satisfy itself by expert inspection, that a proper amount of development work was being done, it might, in the case of property requiring heavy expenditure in its initial stages, grant a more extensive area on a prospecting license for a comparitively long period. It would be unnecessary to burden the enterprise with a high acreage payment, when the Government inspecting staff could ensure that a proper amount of development work was being done.

This proposal would, we think, meet the difficulty at present experienced by concessionaires where extensive operations for the proving of mineral values are required, as for example, boring for oil or for minerals occurring at uncertain intervals on a known geological horizon. The Mining Rules provide for the renewal of prospecting licenses under the authority of the Collector up to a period of three years. The rules are silent as to the power to give further renewals, which is presumably reserved for the Government of India. We think that, with the help of the system of inspection which we have proposed Local Governments might be authorised to grant extensions in such cases up to a maximum period of five years.

It will be noticed that this system of inspection would entail a substantial increase in the staff of the Geological Survey. Several witnesses of undoubted authority drew our attention to its inadequacy and they hesitated to make proposals for useful forms of Government assistance to the mineral industry, only because they assumed that the cadre was fixed. In view of the national importance of minerals and of the fact that inefficient working destroys for ever the value

value of a deposit that mght in future be of vital importance, we consider that the additional expense incurred in such an increase would be an investment that Government can undertake with absolute confidence.

: : : : : : : : : :

We think that in provinces where there is considerable mining activity, it is advisable for Local Governments to issue Mining Manuals similar to those published in the Central Provinces and Burma. These should include the Government of India Mining Rules, the local supplementary regulations, and any other provisions of rule or law that are likely to be encountered in the course of their work by persons engaged in mining. We suggest that these manuals would be of increased value if they contained notes prepared by the Geological Survey Department on the known mineral resources of the province and references to publications containing more detailed information. : : :

The foregoing facts show briefly and clearly the functions of the Geological Survey Department of India and the important part it has to play in the future mineral and economic development of the country.

The Department of Mines and Geology in Mysore has been organised and developed on similar lines as the Government of India Survey Department and during its existance for nearly quarter of a Century has steadily made a proud position and maintained its prestige as the only other Geological Survey Department of any note in India.

Being a local institution its cadre and equipment and range of work have been commensurately small and limited compared with that of the Imperial Service Department, though the quality of work it has turned out compares quite favourably.

Its work in the past, its present position and its increased work in the future have been clearly and lucidly indicated by Dr. W F. Smeeth in his note submitted to Government for the recent re-organisation under the heading

" Scheme of work for the Department of Mines and Geology and inspection of Mines and Explosives."

7

20)

A kind perusal and study of the above note will give a very good idea of the work assigned to the Department of Mines and Explosives and the Department of Geology.

The note quite distinctly points out that among several items of work for the Department of Geology, the preparation and issue of the various kinds of mineral leases and licences and the keeping of maps and records relating to them are included thereunder.

Only the preparation of statistics and returns of output of minerals, labour employed, royalty etc. have been recommended to fo part of the work of the Department of Mines and Explosives.

With regard to the overlapping of work noticed, it may be pointed out that it is almost impossible to avoid such a contingenc in the work of Departments, which are so intimately allied and kindred in charecter, as Mining and Geology; and more especially, when the heads of two such Departments have to submit independent reports, printed and published also independent volumes. The overlapping of such work is really a repetition of certain statistical statements and does not entail much labour and cost; but it is desi-able that such matter should find a place in both the reports as some of the general public may read either only the ~~main~~ mines report or the Geological report- in other words the two reports should be self-contained, and at least, in regard to certain bare facts and figures pertaining to mineral statistics etc,.

In fact some Mines Reports publish mineral statistics and statutory inspection work merely in the form of a few concise tabular statements and deal largely with Mineral, Geological and Metallurgi problems of a technical and useful character. There is nothing to prevent the Chief Inspector of Mines and his Staff to study Mineral and Geological features during their course of legitimate inspectio work and publish their observations if they chose to do so; likewise the Geologist can also make suitable suggestions on matters mining. Indeed it makes little difference to the cause of Science whether any useful contribution to the existing knowledge is added by the Mining Head or the Geological Head. So that the question of overlapping of work may be ignored as unavoidable and necessary.

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The point for consideration and on which action seems desirable is whether the present practice of collecting mineral statistics, rents, dues etc, should form part of the work of the Department of Geology or the Department of Mines and Explosives.

On this point Dr. Smeeth has definitely expressed his views in his scheme of work wherein he says that the proper Department to take charge of the above work is the Department of Mines. I am also in agreement with his views and should welcome a change in that direction.

But under no circumstances should this change be contemplated and coupled with the transfer of exploring and prospecting licenses and mining leases from the Department of Geology to the Department of Mines and Explosives.

For to do so would prove fatal and suicidal to the welfare of the Geological Department, public and private mineral industries in the State and general policy of Government.

In conclusion I earnestly pray that no such fatal step will be taken by the keen and considerate Government of His Highness the Maharaja.

B. Foy James

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GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE,

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

Dated, Bangalore 7/2/192 1

No. 17325 Geol 21-25

From

K. Matthan, Esq., B.A.,

Offg. *Chief Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.*

To

R. Bocquet, Esq.,

Chief Inspector of Mines in Mysore.

Sir,

On a perusal of the report on the working of the Department of Geology for the year 1919-20 and that on the working of the Department of Mines and Explosives for the same period, Government have noticed that both the reports deal with prospecting licenses and leases and tha there is a certain amount of overlapping in the work of the two departments in this respect. I am directed to request you to be so good as to favour Government with your opinion as to how this overlapping of work could be prevented and whether it would be desirable to transfer the work relating to the Mining leases and prospecting licenses to the Mining Department. A comprehensive note on the subject may kindly be prepared and sent up to Government at your early convenience after a study of the practice prevailing in the Government of India, Geological and Mining Departments.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Offg.

For Offg. Chief Secretary to Govt.

16773 DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND EXPLOSIVES,

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES IN MYSORE.

Dated Oorgaum, 6th September 1922.

No. 444

FROM

R. BOCQUET, ESQUIRE, J. P.,
CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES IN MYSORE.

To

B. Venkoba Rao, Esq., B.A.,
Secretary to the Government of His Highness
the Maharaja of Mysore,
General Department, Bangalore.

SIR,

With reference to your letter No.17325/Geol., dated 9-3-21 and subsequent reminders ending with letter No.I.C.1129 /Geol.,dated 14-8-22, I have the honour to submit herewith, for the information of Government, a brief note on the subject of the transfer of the work relating to Mining Leases and Prospecting Licenses to the Mines Department.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. Bocquet.

CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES

IN MYSORE.

M.S.

N o t e.

The granting of Mining Leases, Exploring and Prospecting Licenses in State has been in the hands of the Geological Department since its inception.

Under G.O.No.7041-7100 Geol. 69-18-11, dated 18th September 1919, the "supervision of prospecting work" was assigned to the same Department and, in virtue of this statutory duty, the Director collects statistics and other information quarterly, from the various holders of Prospecting and Exploring Licenses and publishes the same in his annual report. These statistics are likewise embodied in the yearly report of the Department of Mines and Explosives submitted to Government by the Chief Inspector of Mines in Mysore.

There is no overlapping of work in this connection, but, as these reports are circulated in different areas and to different people, it was thought desirable some years ago to publish the same information in both of them for the benefit of the general public; this is still being done.

Regarding the desirability of the transfer of the work relating to Mining Leases and Prospecting Licenses to the Department of Mines and Explosives, I might say that all the work in connection with the former - except the actual granting of the leases - is carried out by this Department and constitutes the main reason of its existence. At times, while on tour, the Inspectors of Mines have visited various prospecting blocks on inspection duty, though this is hardly within their jurisdiction under the Mysore Mines Regulation; no statistics have been collected on these few occasions. Therefore as far as the work done on Mining Leases, or Blocks, is concerned, there does not appear to be any recently to transfer from the Geological Department to this.

In regard to the work carried out under Exploring and Prospecting Licenses, these blocks should be inspected by ~~the~~ an officer of the Geological Department, measurements taken of the amount done, sketches made and all essential statistics obtained regarding labour employed, royalty payable to Government, etc., as assigned to that Department by Government

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in their order quoted at the beginning of this note. Proper records could then be maintained and the work put on a systematic footing. It would be impossible for the officers of the Department of Mines and Explosives to do this unless their numbers were augmented.

Again in connection with the granting of Mining Leases, Exploring and Prospecting Licenses, the Head of the Department of Mines and Explosives would be able to run this with the necessary staff, if his headquarters were transferred to Bangalore where he could be in touch with other Heads and personally collect all the requisite information. Under existing circumstances. it is doubtful whether Government would be prepared to favourably consider such a proposal. Therefore my opinion is that matters should be allowed to stand as they are for the present, but that an officer might be transferred from the Geological to this Department, periodically visit all the blocks held under Prospecting Licenses, inspect the work done and collect all essential statistics. keeping the necessary records in each and every case. His headquarters would remain, as before, in Bangalore, the only difference being that he would no longer be under the control of the Director of the Geological Department but instead under the Head of the Department of Mines and Explosives.

If a favourable view of this suggestion is taken by Government, I am prepared to supervise this officer's work, granted that he is given a clerk for office routine purposes and collection of records and, in addition, the required number of menials.

R. Bocquet.

CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES

IN MYSORE.

M.S.